

The Picardy Battle Continues With Undiminished Fury

done during the night, the withdrawal being effected in good order. There is reason to believe important events will be recorded within the next few hours which may lead to the betterment of the positions of the armies which are stemming the German onslaught.

During the night there was comparatively little change in the line. No heavy attack this morning had been reported up to 10 o'clock. The British were still holding the enemy strongly about half way between Comblès and Albert.

Further north some gains were achieved by the assaulting troops. The British during the night fell back somewhat from the line through Ervillers and Sapignies in order to straighten the front, which bulged inwards just to the south.

Fighting Against Time
The enemy is fighting desperately hard against time. On the first day his reserves were reduced to fifty-two divisions. At the end of the second day some forty divisions from the reserve had been put in.

A heavy German attack yesterday about Ervillers was completely smashed by the British artillery fire. The withdrawal was not due to pressure against this sector of the line.

Reports from all along the front indicate that the German loss of life yesterday was heavy. The enemy advanced again at Allied gunners who were firing with open sights.

Last night British airmen took heavy toll from the German infantry in Bapaume.

130 Aeroplanes Brought Down
No official figures are at hand, but from compilations made personally the correspondent is convinced that at least 130 German aeroplanes have been brought down in the last five days.

The fighting yesterday continued with more or less intensity along the whole line. The Germans pushed hard in the neighborhood of Fonches, Chaulmieu, Estrees, Dompierre, Mericourt, Miraumont, Achiet-le-Grand, Saignies and Ervillers. Heavy fighting occurred about Grévillers and a desperate conflict was waged in the vicinity of Nesle, which the Germans now hold.

The enemy also attacked strongly in the direction of Novion, but met with strenuous resistance, which appeared to stem the advance. A further massing of German troops was reported at Bapaume north of Bapaume, both of which the enemy holds.

Bapaume was turned into an inferno by squadrons of British aviators. Their bombs tore to pieces whatever was left of the place. The work of the British airmen since the beginning of the battle has been one of the brightest pages. Bitter battles in the air have been fought by scores of aviators, and the service has proved fully its ability to smother the German airmen at a crucial time.

The compilations of German airplane losses made by the correspondent have reference to only one section of the battlefield, comprising perhaps two-thirds of the line affected.

The German divisions which began what evidently was intended to be an irresistible forward movement were so cut up that they were replaced by fresh formations. It is these divisions which have been checked at the positions on which it was foreseen by the Allied General Staff that a stand would be made.

Yet again over which the fighting has taken place possesses small tactical value, but it permitted the Allies to retire in perfect order. It had been expected that the Germans before they retreated last night and the night before had had time or means to build it up again. While retreating across what was almost desert land the British inflicted enormous losses on the enemy, who threw away thousands of lives in an effort to overcome the resistance he encountered. When the retiring British reached the Somme and the canal they turned about and gave battle, meeting repeated and long-sustained endeavors of both infantry and cavalry.

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for the supreme test. But, it adds, one must more than ever secure perfect coordination of the forces of the nations fighting for liberty. To further present events, it concludes, complete unity of military, political and economic command must be realized. The last few days have again proved that on this condition we shall win.

A Policy of Intimidation
The "Eclair" writes: "We should succeed to-day in stalling German war methods. However, the history of all this war brings out the weakness of the brutal tactics which have brought such striking success to the Germans at the beginning of their offensives. It is always a question of startling and intimidating the adversary, and our English friends and ourselves, hard as the blows have been, have experienced no feelings of depression. Ill luck has always strengthened the will and reinforced the courage, the spirit of the Marne and the spirit of Verdun."

"Hommes Libre" states: "Is, then, the decisive phase, perhaps even the final phase, of the war. These furious battles are deciding the fate of the world. Afterward the war will continue. Still, at the same time, it will be virtually over because what ever happens, the German effort will have done all it can, while we remain strong with increasing forces which will be added each hour of the struggle."

The following explanation of the battle situation was given to The Associated Press to-day by General McLachlan: "The position in the battle zone is now clearer and it is possible to get a more general view of what has happened during the first five days' fighting."

Situation Steadily Improving for the British, Expert View
WASHINGTON, March 26.—Information received to-day by the British military attaché, Major General James D. McLachlan, the situation at the battlefield decidedly improved yesterday. The advice is based on the reports of the Germans to the east bank of the Somme, between Peronne and Meuse.

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"Tell People at Home We'll Win"—Kaiser

AMSTERDAM, March 26.—The German Emperor, speaking to the war correspondents at headquarters in the field, said: "Tell the people at home that out here everybody gives his all. Everybody knows that, however great the stake, we shall win. The whole of Germany fights for its free future."

While on the battlefield the Emperor shook hands with hundreds of soldiers.

Report the Kaiser Is at St. Quentin

COPENHAGEN, March 26.—The correspondent of the Berlin "Vorwärts" at the French front reports that the German Emperor, with his staff, is now at St. Quentin.

The German losses, he adds, though great, have not been so heavy as feared. A great number of tanks were used in the battle, and he says, the advance has been made because of excellent leadership and keen preparation.

Drive Bares the Weakness of U. S. Policy, Says T. R.

OYSTER BAY, L. I., March 26.—"I wish our people would read General Wood's testimony," said Colonel Roosevelt to-day, when asked to comment on the German assault, "and then understand what a dreadful misfortune it has been for the whole world to have had America for the last three and one-half years carrying out the 'let George do it' policy."

"We have been at war over a year, and all that we can do when the greatest battle of history is on and the English are fighting our battle as much as their own is for the President to send a message, which, in sum, amounts to the hope that George will be able to do it himself."

Six Teuton Planes Downed in Italy

LONDON, March 26.—Unusual aerial fighting activity on the Italian front, with a continuation of artillery duels and patrol encounters, is reported in an official war statement given out in Rome to-day.

Italian airmen brought down five enemy machines, at Val Dabbiate, Morlano, San Pietro and Biadene, while French aviators accounted for a sixth at Montebelluna.

The text of the statement was as follows: "Along the whole front there have been the usual artillery actions and moderate activity by our reconnoitering parties."

"Five enemy aeroplanes were brought down by our aviators at Val Dabbiate, Morlano, San Pietro and Biadene. Another plane was brought down by the French aviators at Montebelluna."

Fading of German Hopes Is Predicted

LONDON, March 26.—The London evening papers take consolation in the fact that the Germans this far have failed to break the British lines or force a wedge between the British and French armies, and in the news from France that the gaps have been filled with local reserves, while the strategic reserves remain intact for their own special purpose.

"The Standard" says: "After five days of fighting, the British line has gone back almost to the limits of the Somme battlefield. But though it is elastic, it is not brittle; it is bent, but not broken."

"The Globe" says: "The Germans have failed to thrust deeply into the British line as to make reunion of the issue impossible, and to defeat the separated masses in detail, and with every hour

Two-Thirds of Entire German Reserves Thrown at British

LONDON, March 27.—Telegraphing late on Tuesday, the correspondent of "The Daily Mail" at British Headquarters in France says that nearly two-thirds of the entire strategic reserve of the German army has now been thrown into the fierce and vigorously continued attack.

"This German reserve," he adds, "consisted of eight-five divisions, totaling 1,275,000 men, out of a total number now reaching not far short of two hundred divisions, or possibly 3,000,000 men, which they have upon the Western front. After the first day thirty-three of these divisions were put into the battle. On the third day another twenty-one are known to have taken part. Since then they must have drawn upon the reserve for a few more divisions."

"It is therefore clear that we have been struggling with the whole available strength of the German army, and the marvel is that our soldiers have held out so obstinately and steadily against odds so heavily against them."

Austrian General Sees Long Battle

WASHINGTON, March 26.—A diplomatic dispatch from Berne to-day says the Hungarian newspaper "Apost" had an interview with General Auffenberg, former Austrian Minister of War, on the subject of the offensive on the West front.

"It will be long before a decision in France can be obtained," declared the general.

When asked concerning the possibility of a resumption of activity on the Italian front, the former minister expressed the opinion that the decisions relative to this operation are closely bound to the success of operations now being conducted against the Anglo-French armies.

Allies in Palestine Make New Advances

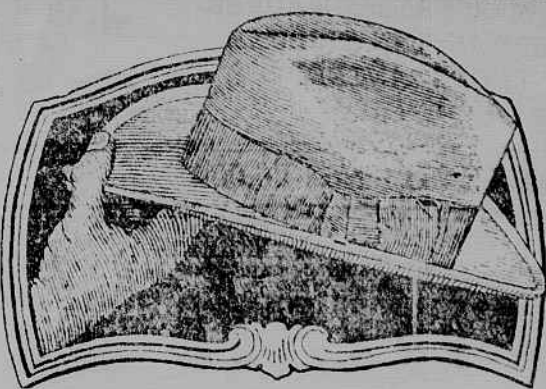
LONDON, March 26.—Further progress by the British in Palestine is reported in an official statement to-night, reading: "During March 25 our troops east of the Jordan made further progress and approached the village of Es-Salt. The advance was, however, effected under difficult conditions, owing to heavy thunderstorms."

Unrest Grows in Germany

CHICAGO, March 26.—Miss Blanche Slocum, held a virtual prisoner in Germany since the outbreak of the war, arrived at her home in Chicago to-day, and told of the suffering of the German people, of their rising detestation of the war and of the government.

"The people are literally starving and are very mutinous," she said. "Small riots and seditious talk have reached such proportions that the government has posted placards about the city of Berlin offering a reward of 3,000 marks for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person participating in the food riots and uttering seditious remarks."

"I have had German soldiers tell me they wished Germany would lose the war so they could get out of the terrible situation. If the people were not victims of frightfulness and half



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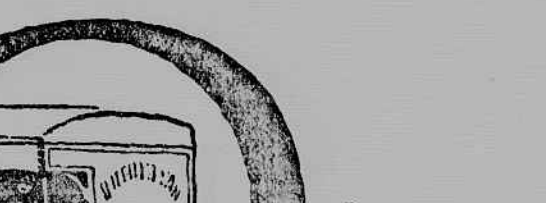
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British Wounded Arriving at Paris
English Soldiers Are Sent to City for First Time Since 1914

PARIS, March 26.—The first lot of British wounded from the German offensive reached Paris on a special hospital train to-day. They were distributed among Paris hospitals. This is the first time British wounded have

been sent here, although numbers passed through Paris during the early months of the war on their way to the Versailles Palace, which was then used as a British hospital.



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German Masses Are Widespread Targets For British Airmen

'Surpassed Description,' Pilots Declare; Machine Guns Fire 100,000 Rounds

LONDON, March 26.—An official statement of the aerial operations to-night says: "On Monday our aeroplanes were employed almost entirely in bombing the enemy's troops and transports massed in the areas behind the battlefield and in attacking them with machine gunfire from low heights. Twenty-two tons of bombs were dropped in this work and over 100,000 rounds were fired from the machine guns."

"All our pilots reported that the ground targets offered by the enemy surpassed description. They were able to drop their bombs with accuracy and to fire with effect right into the centre of infantry battalions in close formation and into columns of cavalry and transport."

"A certain amount of fighting in the air took place, but it was less intense than on the previous day. Thirteen hostile aeroplanes were brought down and ten were driven down out of control. Light of our machines is missing. The majority of our casualties were caused to the low-flying machines by fire from the ground."

"During the night our night-flying aeroplanes continued to bomb and attack with machine gun fire the enemy's troops in his forward areas and transport on the roads leading to the front."

The destruction of almost 200 enemy machines has been reported by British since the beginning of the German drive. The Germans reported that ninety-three Allied machines have been brought down.

Germany Cannot Act as Conqueror

AMSTERDAM, March 26.—The "Vorwärts," under date of March 25, says: "While the fighting at present is inclining in Germany's favor, nevertheless after this fight we shall neither be in a position nor shall we have the moral right to treat the enemy on the principle of 'hands on the throat and knees on the breast.'"

"The necessity for a political understanding lies behind even the greatest military decision. Such an understanding, however, will be all the easier for us once the poison clouds of war lies have disappeared. After this war the German people can only live as a peaceful, self-governing nation."

German Agents Trying To Alarm the French

LONDON, March 26.—German agents are spreading alarmist reports among the civil population around the battle zone in Northern France, according to a dispatch from the Reuters correspondent at British headquarters, dated Monday. These persons are being dealt with summarily when caught.

Concerning the fighting, the correspondent says: "The spirit and determination of the British troops are excellent. The enemy losses have been enormous. The situation in many places remains very confused, which is natural in fighting that has assumed more of the character of a war movement than at any time since the days of the Marne."

American Flier Bags A Teuton Aeroplane

PARIS, Wednesday, March 26.—The bringing down of another German airplane has been credited to Paul F. Boer, of Fort Wayne, Ind., a member of the Lafayette Flying Squad.

He topped over a two-seated biplane Monday. Friends claim that Boer brought down two machines on the same day. Only one of these, however, has been credited to him officially, but the other is under investigation. Boer is officially credited with two machines being shot down, the other victory having been achieved last week.

Frank L. Baylies, of New Bedford, Mass., a former member of the American Field Ambulance, shot down a German machine Monday.

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"Petain Commands"—Paris Feels Secure

By Wilbur Forrest

PARIS, March 26.—Everything is going satisfactorily, is the latest news in Paris to-night from the great battle to the northward. In military circles, these who watched the battles of the Marne, Verdun and the Yser, and also the Italian situation, where things hung in the balance, are showing the same confidence to-day.

They know who is likely to counter the best brains of the enemy commanders, because they have proved the ability when it hung in the balance before. The "Petit Parisien" says: "If the situation is serious, as we said yesterday, it cannot be considered as alarming. Knowing, with confidence we await the end. The Germans glorify themselves with Hindenburg. We have at the bar the savior of Verdun, Petain commands."

Warns Germans Not To Expect Too Much

AMSTERDAM, March 26.—The Berlin "Taegliche Rundschau," of Sunday date, attempts to lower the high expectations of the German people on the great offensive. The paper points out that it will be necessary to crush the British army before it is possible to break down resistance, and adds: "If it is impossible, after a short but severe artillery preparation, to break through all the lines with our infantry, then we must not count on an immediate break through along the whole front."

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